

Washington, DC – Today Congressman Todd Akin, Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta raising concerns about medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) policies in Afghanistan. Army MEDEVAC helicopters fly unarmed in Afghanistan, so they require an armed escort, which can lead to delays due to high demand for helicopters. At the same time, Air Force MEDEVAC helicopters fly armed and therefore do not require an escort and can potentially evacuate casualties more quickly.

“Any policy commitment that would impede even a single wounded soldier or Marine from receiving medical care in the least amount of time possible is simply unacceptable,” said Congressman Akin. “The medical staff in Afghanistan is courageous and is providing the best possible care for wounded service members. Unfortunately, bureaucrats in the Pentagon are delaying this care needlessly. If there is one thing we have learned in combat medicine in recent years, it is that quickly getting medical care is crucial. This policy must be corrected.”

The full letter is here: [Akin MEDEVAC letter to SECDEF 01-17-2012.pdf](#)

Response from CJCS Gen. Dempsey, received 02-07-2012: [CJCS response to Akin on Me devac 02-07-2012.pdf](#)

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